

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 /075 W
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R 280920Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4400
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 5777

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, CY, US
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO ATTEMPT ON ECEVIT

REF: ANKARA 5762

1. THE ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON BULENT ECEVIT IN NEW YORK JULY 26
DOMINATES TURKISH PRESS JULY 28. NEARLY ALL NEWSPAPERS
DEVOTE A MAJOR PORTION OF THEIR FRONT PAGES TO THE INCIDENT
AND TO THE REACTION OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
IN TURKEY. COVERAGE IS GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND
ALL STORIES INDICATE THAT THE U.S. SECURITY OFFICERS ACTED
PROMPTLY AND BRAVELY IN PROTECTING ECEVIT.

2. MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET GIVES MOST SENSATIONALIST
COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT. ITS REPORT IS HEADLINED
"MARIKA CRIED 'KILL HIM. KILL HIM'." IT ALSO CARRIES
ON ITS FRONT PAGE PICTURES OF DEMONSTRATORS OUTSIDE
THE WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL CARRYING ANTI-TURKISH PLACARDS.
ONE PICTURE SHOWS THREE GREEK ORTHODOX PRIESTS AND IS
CAPTIONED, "LOOK AT THE GREEK PRIEST PROVOCATEURS."
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HURRIYET ALST CARRIES FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED,

"THIS IS THE REAL GREEK." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE SENTENCE, "THE GREEK NATION WILL NOT BE SPARED GOD'S CONDEMNATION."

3. MOST PUBLIC FIGURES OF TURKEY AND SECERAL ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED STATEMENTS DEPLORING THE INCIDENT. PRESS GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE STATEMENTS OF DEMIREL AND ECEVIT REPORTED REFTEL. IN ADDITION, TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THE CIVILIZED WORLD WOULD REACT TO THE INCIDENT WITH ABHORRENCE. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL SENT A TELEGRAM TO ECEVIT IN WHICH HE ECHOED DEMIREL'S THOUGH THAT THE ATTACK ON ECEVIT WAS AN ATTACK ON THE TURKISH NATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOT FULLY SHARES THE CONCILIATORY COMMENTS MADE BY ECEVIT AFTER THE INCIDENT " IN THAT THEY REFLECT A DIGNIFIED AND HUMANE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF ESTATE AND NATION." AMONG THOSE WHO ALSO SENT MESSAGES TO ECEVIT OR ISSUED STATEMENTS WERE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) CHAIRMAN BOZBEYLI, TURKISH-CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH, THE TURKISH JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION, TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION, AND RPP PROVINCIAL AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE ANKARA RPP YOUTH ORGANIZATION ALSO PLACED A BLACK WREATH IN FRONT OF THE GREEK EMBASSY.

4. COMMENT: NONE OF THE REACTION TO DATE HAS HAD ANY SIGNIFICANT ANTI-AMERICAN CONTENT, ALTHOUGH LEFTIST POLITIKA CARRIES A FRONT PAGE CARTOON SHOWING A "FANATIC" GREEK HIDING BEHIND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY SHOOTING AT ECEVIT.
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